

Message Text

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DRAFTED BY EUR/SE:RRDELABARRE:TP

APPROVED BY C:MNIMETZ

EUR/SE:NCLEDSKY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY ANKARA PRIORITY

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

USMISSION NATO

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 140181

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: NATO, TU, US

SUBJECT: U.S. COMMITMENT TO NATO

1. DURING JUNE 15 CALL ON COUNSELOR NIMETZ REGARDING CSCE (REPORTED SEPTTEL) TURKISH AMBASSADOR ESENBEL SAID HE HAD BEEN INSTRUCTED BY HIS GOVERNMENT TO MENTION CONCERN WITHIN NATO REGARDING U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE FOLLOWING PRESIDENT'S NOTRE DAME SPEECH OF MAY 22. FOCUS OF CONCERN CENTERED ON PRESIDENT'S REMARKS REGARDING CONTAINMENT OF SOVIET EXPANSION WHICH PRODUCED "CORRESPONDING BELIEF IN THE IMPORTANCE OF AN ALMOST EXCLUSIVE ALLIANCE AMONG NON-COMMUNIST NATIONS ON BOTH SIDES OF THE ATLANTIC. THAT SYSTEM COULD NOT LAST FOREVER UNCHANGED. HISTORICAL TRENDS
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HAVE WEAKENED ITS FOUNDATION. THE UNIFYING THREAT OF CONFLICT WITH THE SOVIET UNION HAS BECOME LESS INTENSIVE, EVEN THOUGH THE COMPETITION HAS BECOME MORE EXTENSIVE." THESE WORDS, ESENBEL SAID, HAD PRODUCED IMPRESSION THAT U.S. SUPPORT FOR NATO WAS WEAKENING. ON OTHER HAND, ESENBEL NOTED, PRESIDENT'S INITIATIVES AT LONDON NATO SUMMIT SEEMED TO STRONGLY SUPPORT ALLIANCE.

2. NIMETZ NOTED THAT PRESIDENT AND SECRETARY HAD REPEATEDLY STRONGLY AFFIRMED U.S. COMMITMENT TO THE ALLIANCE. PRESIDENT IN NOTRE DAME SPEECH WAS REFERRING TO NEED TO

DEVELOP NEW TIES TO MEET CHANGING INTERNATIONAL SITUATION. PRESIDENT HAD DIRECTED ALL HIS REMARKS REGARDING NATO TO STRENGTHENING THE ALLIANCE AND U.S. POSITION SHOULD BE CLEAR TO OUR ALLIES AND ADVERSARIES ALIKE.

3. ESENBEL ALSO REFERRED TO REPORT OF HOUSE ARMED SERVICES COMMITTEE DELEGATION TO NATO (STATE 134255) AND NOTED THAT DELEGATION DISAGREED WITH ADMINISTRATION POLICY LINKING APPROVAL OF U.S.-TURKEY AND U.S.-GREECE DEFENSE COOPERATION AGREEMENTS TO RESOLUTION OF CYPRUS QUESTION. NIMETZ DID NOT RESPOND DIRECTLY, HAVING PREVIOUSLY OUTLINED IN FULL TO ESENBEL ADMINISTRATION POSITION WITH RESPECT TO BOTH CYPRUS AND U.S.-TURKEY SECURITY RELATIONSHIP. CHRISTOPHER

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